

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COTONO 01319 141519Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 SSO-00 (ISO) W
-----026819 141848Z /64
O 141440Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1092

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FOR AF/W HOUDEL ONLY FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AMGT, DM
SUBJ: INSPECTION REPORT

REF: STATE 230969

FOLLOWING IS STATUS ON IMPLEMENTING INSPECTORS' RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. 2.3-1 AGREE WITH NEED FOR NEW GOALS AND OBJECTIVES STATEMENT WHICH NEW CHARGE WILL PREPARE AS TOP PRIORITY.
2.3-2 ACCREDITATION OF NON-RESIDENT AMBASSADOR TO BENIN WOULD BE A DEFINITIVE UNILATERAL MOVE ON OUR PART PERMANENTLY DOWNGRADING RELATIONS WITH BENIN AND SATISFYING NEITHER DESIRES OF BENIN GOVERNMENT NOR OBJECTIVES OF US POLICY, WHICH SHOULD, AT THIS POINT AT LEAST, HOLD OPEN INDUCEMENTS TO BENINOIS FOR BETTER DIALOGUE AND IMPROVED RELATIONS. AS LONG AS USG HAS GENERAL POLICY OF ACCREDITING ONE DIPLOMATIC MISSION EACH INDEPENDENT AFRICAN COUNTRY, WE SEE NO NEED TO SINGLE OUT BENIN AND RELEGATE IT TO STATUS OF THIRD-CLASS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S. I.E., OF LESS SIGNIFICANCE THAN, SAY, THE GAMBIA OR BRAZZAVILLE, ETC. THINGS SIMPLY ARE NOT THAT BAD HERE. ON BASIS OF PRELIMINARY IMPRESSIONS, I SEE BETTER THAN FIFTY-FIFTH CHANCE FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH THIS GOVERNMENT IN PERIOD JUST AHEAD. THIS IS NOT TO SAY WE NEED RESIDENT AMBASSADOR. BUT IN EYES OF
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BENINOIS, PERMANENT RESIDENT CHIEF OF MISSION, I.E., AUTHORITATIVE CONTACT AT LOCAL LEVEL, IS MORE PALATABLE THAN NON-RESIDENT AMBASSADOR. MOST IMPORTANTLY, COORDINATION OF AID AND PEACE CORPS PROGRAMS, WHICH ALTHOUGH SMALL, ARE FAR FROM BEING INSIGNIFICANT IN AFRICAN CONTEXT REQUIRE ON-THE-SPOT MANAGEMENT WHICH ONLY RESIDENT PRINCIPAL OFFICER -- CHARGE OF AMBASSADOR -- CAN PROVIDE. IN SUMMARY, WE ARE BETTER OFF NOW IN TERMS OF RESID-

ENT PROGRAM DIRECTION AND OF STATUS THIS MISSION IN EYES OF GPRB
THAN WE WOULD BE UNDER ARRANGEMENTS WHICH INSPECTORS PROPOSE.

2.3-3 MISSION WILL REQUEST INCREASE IN REPRESENTATION FUNDS
AND PLANS WIDER ALLOCATION.

2.3-4 IMMEDIATE ATTENTION WILL BE GIVEN TO COORDINATION OF
BIOGRAPHIC REPORTING, WITHIN LIMITS OF STAFF REDUCTIONS.

2.3-5 POSITION NUMBER 013 HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO CULTURAL
CENTER.

2.3-7 THE CONSULAR OFFICER IS PREPARING THE CERTIFIED MONTHLY
REPORT OF CONSULAR CASH RECEIPTS AND PROVIDING THE DUPLICATE
COPY TO THE CLASS B CASHIER.

2.3-8 SUITABLE INSURANCE COVERAGE IS BEING SOUGHT BY THE AEEA
TO PROTECT ITS ASSETS.

2.3-9 MISSION OFFICERS HAVE BEEN SENSITIZED TO THIS REQUIREMENT.

2.3-10 NEW CHARGE WILL CONDUCT REVIEW WITH ICA AS EARLY AS
POSSIBLE.

2.3-11 ICA OFFICER'S APPROACHES TO GPRB OFFICIALS CONCERNING
REVIVAL OF IV PROGRAM HAVE BEEN WELL RECEIVED. HE WILL CONTINUE
EFFORTS TO REACTIVATE THE PROGRAM.

2.3-12 PEACE CORPS PROGRAM, WHILE SMALL, DOES NOT, IN MY VIEW,
FACE INSURMOUNTABLE DIFFICULTIES HERE. GOVERNMENT, IN FACT,
SEEMS ON VERGE OF REQUESTING NEW VOLUNTEERS. ON BASIS OF WHAT I
HAVE SEEN SO FAR, ADMITTEDLY PRELIMINARY AND IMPRESSIONISTIC,
AND FROM TALKING WITH P.C. VOLUNTEERS THEMSELVES, I FAIL TO
SEE INSPECTORS' RATIONALE FOR THE P.C. TO CUT AND RUN.

2.3-13 AS LONG AS WE HAVE AN AID PROGRAM, AT LEAST ONE AID RES-
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IDENT OFFICER WILL BE REQUIRED. THERE IS SIMPLY NO WAY AID CAN
COVER THIS COUNTRY OR ANY OTHER ON A STRICTLY REGIONAL BASIS,
ESPECIALLY GIVEN NATURE OF FY 79 & 80 PROJECTS WHICH WILL BE IN
PREPARATION STAGE -- STAGE REQUIRING SUBSTANTIAL LOCAL CONTACT
AND CONSULTATIONS, NUMEROUS VISITS OF DESIGN TEAMS, ETC --
WITHOUT PERMANENT ON-THE-SPOT REPRESENTATION.

2. 6.3-1 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER AND ICA/RBMO WILL DISCUSS INTE-
GRATION WITH STATE MOTOR POOL OPERATIONS.

6.3-2 THE CONTRACT FOR SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE AEEA TO THE
EMBASSY IS BEING EXTENSIVELY REWRITTEN AND WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE
OCT 1, 1978. IT WILL ADHERE STRICTLY TO THE GUIDELINES FOR NON-
PERSONAL SERVICES CONTRACTS ESTABLISHED IN A-200.

6.3-3 THE RBMO FROM LAGOS VISITED EMBASSY COTONOU IN AUG 1978
AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO AS NEEDED.

6.3-4 THE CLASS B CASHIER HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO TRANSMIT
PAID VOUCHERS AND COLLECTIONS TO RFDPC/PARIS ON A WEEKLY BASIS.

6.3-5 THE NEW ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES WILL BE INITIATED OCT 1, 1978.

6.3-6 ACTION COMPLETED.

6.3-7 THE REGIONAL NURSE FROM LAGOS VISITED COTONOU IN AUGUST.
THE NEW RMO WILL BE REQUESTED TO VISIT EMBASSY COTONOU SOME TIME
AFTER HIS ARRIVAL AT POST IN SEPTEMBER AND THIS RECOMMENDATION

WILL BE DISCUSSED WITH HIM THEN.

6.3-8 THE APPROPRIATE TIME TO ACTIVITATE THIS RECOMMENDATION
WILL BE WHEN WE HAVE A FIRMER IDEA THAN WE DO NOW ABOUT THE SHAPE
OF OUR RELATIONS WITH BENIN IN THE MIDDLE AND LONG-TERM. FOR
NOW, AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE IS THE ONLY RPT ONLY SUITABLE REP-
RESENTATION SITE AVAILABLE TO MISSION AS WELL AS ONLY SWIMMING
POOL AVAILABLE TO AMERICAN COMMUNITY. USG HAS SUBSTANTIAL
INVESTMENT IN IT IN TERMS OF FURNISHINGS, ETC., REPRESENTING
THE BESE JUDGEMENT OF SEVERAL PREVIOUS AMBASSADORS HERE. SUITABLE
RESIDENCE FOR CHIEF OF MISSION CAN BE MOST APPROPRIATELY
DISCUSSED ONCE WE HAVE OUR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES STRAIGHT,
ONCE WE KNOW ULTIMATE SIZE AND COMPOSITION OF MISSION, AND ONCE
WE HAVE DECIDED LEVEL AND STYLE OF U.S. PRESENCE IN BENIN.

6.3-9 THE RSO AND RSS VISITED COTONOU AND EVALUATED POST SECURITY
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IN LATE JULY. THE RSO MADE A SUBSEQUENT VISIT FOR THE SAME PUR-
POSE IN AUGUST. ACTION ON THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS IS PROCEEDING.

6.3-10 MISSION PERSONNEL ARE REQUIRED TO REVIEW THE E&E PLAN
AS PART OF THEIR ARRIVAL SECURITY BRIEFING. THE ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICER BRIEFS APPROPRIATE MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN COMMUNITY
PERSONALLY. REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE E&E COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD.
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